

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2003

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs to news@sarl.org.za not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English. Please note as from February, only news items sent to news@sarl.org.za will be accepted.

In the news today:

SARL INTECNET RETURNS ON 23 FEBRUARY

LOW POWER 7 MHz SA BEACON HEARD IN USA

AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS RUN RAE COURSE

ACTIVITIES TO PARTAKE IN

Stay tuned for more details on these and other news items.

You are tuned to ZS6SRL. Visit the SARL Website or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

The news follows in detail:

SARL INTECNET RETURNS ON 23 FEBRUARY

The SARL INTECNET returns on Sunday 23 February. The SARL has received a sponsorship of R15 000 from Telkom to fund the weekly programme ARMI and ten Intecnet programmes during 2003 as well as special events on Woman's day and a youth event on the air.

The programme on 23 February will feature Dr John Champa K8OCL the Chairperson of the ARRL High Speed Digital Networks and Multimedia working Group. The group is part of the ARRL Amateur Radio Technology Task Force established to examine newer communication technologies for the purpose of assessing their applicability and adaptability to the Amateur Radio Service.

K8OCL will discuss the work of his group and highlight the recently announced "Hinternet". High-speed multimedia hamming via the "Hinternet" could be the next big thing for Amateur Radio. "We expect it to be nothing less than revolutionary!" says John Champa. The term "Hinternet" (ham + Internet), Champa says, is a user-friendly way to refer to the development of high-speed

Radio Local Area Networks (RLANs) capable of simultaneously carrying audio, video and data signals.

The programme will be on the air on Sunday 23 February from 20:00 - 21:30 on various repeaters around South Africa with an interactive relay on 3718 kHz LSB and a transmission by Sentech on 3215 kHz AM.

Clubs wishing to join the interactive network and link their repeater should send an Email to armi@sarl.org.za with details of their repeater coverage, frequency and the telephone number to be linked. Please mark the subject line: SARL INTECNET2003

This development promises to be not only very interesting but also a very important one. Therefore diarise the date of the program in which you can also participate right now in order that you may not miss it.

LOW POWER 7 MHz SA BEACON HEARD IN USA

On Tuesday the 29th of January, Bill, WA8LXJ, made a positive identification of the low power 7 MHz beacon operated by ZS1J in Plettenberg bay. He gave it a Readability 2, Signal strength 1 and tone T9. Bill also made a tape recording of the signal received and played it back to amazed South African amateurs on the daily, split frequency net, held on 7095 and 7177 on the morning of the 29th January.

Over the last 4 months, an extremely low power beacon transmitter has been operating from the QTH of ZS1J at Plettenberg Bay, South Africa. The measured power output of the 7029 kHz transmissions is 100 microwatt and reception reports from all over South Africa, up to 1100 kilometres, have been received by the beacon operator, Roger Davis.

During one of their early morning daily skeds, Bill, WA8LXJ, was asked by ZS1J to see if he could receive the beacon as Bill has an extremely efficient antenna system and is consistently heard in South Africa on 40 metres at 20 dB over S9. Bill requested an accurate frequency readout of the transmission, which was given to him as 7029,0155 kHz. Bill has the facility to narrow his receiver bandwidth down to an incredible 10 Hz to be able to pluck out even the weakest signal from the noise.

Visit the ZS1J beacon web site at zs1j@qsl.net.

AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS RUN RAE COURSES

The Sandton Amateur Radio Club will again run an RAE course starting on Wednesday 5th February.

Lectures are held every Wednesday evening at the National Amateur Radio Centre, Radiokop. For further details please contact Graham ZS6GJH at 082 441 6989 or email zs6gjh@icon.co.za.

The Magalies Radio Amateur Club yesterday started a course through Afrikaans in Pretoria. It is not yet too late to enrol for the course and if there are still

prospective students, they are welcome to come to the club's club house situated at the corner of Breyer Ave and Mill street, Waverley, Pretoria on Saturday the 8th February at 14:00. Prospective students may contact Marten, ZS6ZY, at tel 012 332 2104 or George, ZS6NE, at tel 012 664 4155 for more information.

ACTIVITIES TO PARTAKE IN

SARL HF FIELD DAY

The first leg of the SARL HF Field Day will take place over the weekend of 08 and 09 February 2003. The rules have been changed with regard to setting up the field station and power multipliers and bonus points have been added to the scoring. The rules are in the new contest manual which is available on the SARL website

SARL KID'S DAY ACTIVITY

Please don't forget the SARL Kids Day that takes place on Saturday 8 February. Please take note of the new date.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR SARLNEWS

The address for sarlnews at the Hotmail site, does not exist any more. All news contributions must in future only be sent to news@sarl.org.za.

This bulletin was compiled by George, ZS6NE and read byfrom as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 21560, 9750, and 7082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban and 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area.

Today's program will include a final report on the Sun Eclipse propagation experiment, all about RFI and in technotalk "the g's in the machine".

A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 20:00 CAT on 3215 kHz.

ARMI is sponsored by Telkom and Sentech.

The next net of the President of the SARL will be in three week's time on Sunday the 23rd February.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL, thank you for joining us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

LATE NEWS

COLUMBIA TRAGEDY

Yesterday, other than usual, I tuned through the 31 m band past 18:35 and on 9760 kHz my ears caught something about a tragic incident that occurred. I

listened with more attention, and sure enough it is true, the Columbia space shuttle disintegrated on its return journey when entering the earth's atmosphere. On the 19:00 TV news I saw the hard truth. Seven highly qualified, brave, clear thinking people were burned to smoke without the least chance to even try and jump out a window.

The next TV picture was about two trains in Zimbabwe involved in a head on collision. 100 People died. Which of these events is the most tragic? I do not venture an answer but we as amateurs probably identify better with the Columbia tragedy since some of the crew were amateurs and possibly some of us had contact with some of them.

I contacted the President of the SARL after the TV news by cellphone. At that stage he was still unaware of the tragic occurrences as he was on a visit in Southern KwaZulu-Natal. He was speechless about this news. He extends his sincerest sympathies towards the relatives of those who lost relatives in the disasters. He trusts that the relatives and friends will be able to overcome the effect of the occurrences and will proceed with life in a positive way.

George Honiball, ZS6NE, SARLNEWS.

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